Alberta
HUMAN RESOURCES AND EMPLOYMENT

the people
& workplace
department

ALBERTA PROFILES:

YOUTH IN THE LABOUR FORCE

Data Development and Evaluation

Revised: April 2006

Highlights

For the purpose of this profile, youth are defined as persons aged 15 to 24 years.

1. Alberta Youth Population Statistics

- Alberta had the highest proportion of youth in its working age population of all the provinces
- The Alberta youth population grew by 26.3% between 1995 and 2005

2. Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

- Alberta youth had the lowest unemployment rate in the country at 7.3%
- Alberta youth had the highest employment rate in Canada with 65.4%

3. Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

- Over three quarters of youth were employed in the Service-Producing industries
- Nearly half of employment in the Accommodation and Food Services industry is composed of youth

4. Alberta Youth Employment by Occupation

- Forty five percent of youth were employed in the Sales and Service occupation
- While 92% of youth employed in Trades, Transportation and Equipment Operators occupations were male, 87.6% of youth in Health occupations were female

5. Alberta Youth Employment

- Over forty percent of employed youth in Alberta have completed at least some post secondary education
- The highest proportion of employed youth were high school graduates
- More youth were employed in part-time positions than the overall Alberta population

6. Alberta Youth Wages and Salaries

- The average hourly wage for youth in Alberta was lower than for the overall Alberta population
- On average, male youth had higher hourly salaries than their female counterparts

1. Alberta Youth Population Statistics

Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the ages of 15-24 years.[1]

Table 1

Youth, Canada and Provinces, 2005			
	Total Population (15 yrs +)	Youth (15-24 yrs)	% of Youth
Canada	**25,805,500**	**4,280,200**	**16.6%**
Newfoundland	429,700	69,100	16.1%
Prince Edward Island	111,600	19,700	17.7%
Nova Scotia	760,700	123,500	16.2%
New Brunswick	610,400	96,500	15.8%
Quebec	6,181,200	950,200	15.4%
Ontario	10,070,400	1,680,300	16.7%
Manitoba	888,600	155,400	17.5%
Saskatchewan	748,400	138,800	18.5%
Alberta	2,555,600	476,500	18.6%
British Columbia	3,447,900	570,200	16.5%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2005

Table 1 shows the number and proportion of youth in Canada by province. Alberta has the highest proportion of youth within its working age population with 18.6%. Quebec has the lowest proportion with 15.8%.

Table 2

Working Age Population Growth				
	1995	*2005*	*Growth*	*% Growth*
Canada	22,660,000	25,805,500	3,145,500	13.9%
Canada Youth	3,898,400	4,280,200	381,800	9.8%
Alberta	2,048,900	2,555,600	506,700	24.7%
Alberta Youth	377,300	476,500	99,200	26.3%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2005

The Alberta youth population grew by 99,200 people between 1995 and 2005. This represents a growth of over 26.0% over the last decade. This rate was more than 2.5 times greater than the growth rate for Canadian youth. The growth rate for Alberta youth was also 1.6 percentage points higher than that of the total working age population in Alberta.

[1] Guide to the Labour Force Survey. Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE

2. Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

Table 3

Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics			
	Youth	**Total Albertans**	**% of Total Albertans**
Working Age Population	476,500	2,555,600	18.6%
Labour Force	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Employed	311,800	1,784,400	17.5%
Unemployed	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Unemployment Rate	7.3%	3.9%	
Participation Rate	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Employment Rate	65.4%	69.8%	

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2005

As shown in Table 3, youth make up just over 18.0% of Alberta's labour force and 17.5% of the employed in Alberta.

Youth accounted for more than a third (+33.5%) of the unemployed in Alberta in 2005. The unemployment rate was 7.3%, which was down from 8.5% in 2004 but still 3.4 percentage points higher than for total Albertans.

Both the participation and employment rates for Alberta youth are lower than those for the total population, with differences of 2.1 and 4.4 percentage points respectively.

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	Youth	**Total Albertans**	**% of Total Albertans**
Working Age Population	476,500	2,555,600	18.6%
Labour Force	**336,300**	**1,857,500**	**18.1%**
Employed	311,800	1,784,400	17.5%
Unemployed	**24,500**	**73,100**	**33.5%**
Unemployment Rate	7.3%	3.9%	
Participation Rate	**70.6%**	**72.7%**	
Employment Rate	65.4%	69.8%	

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2005

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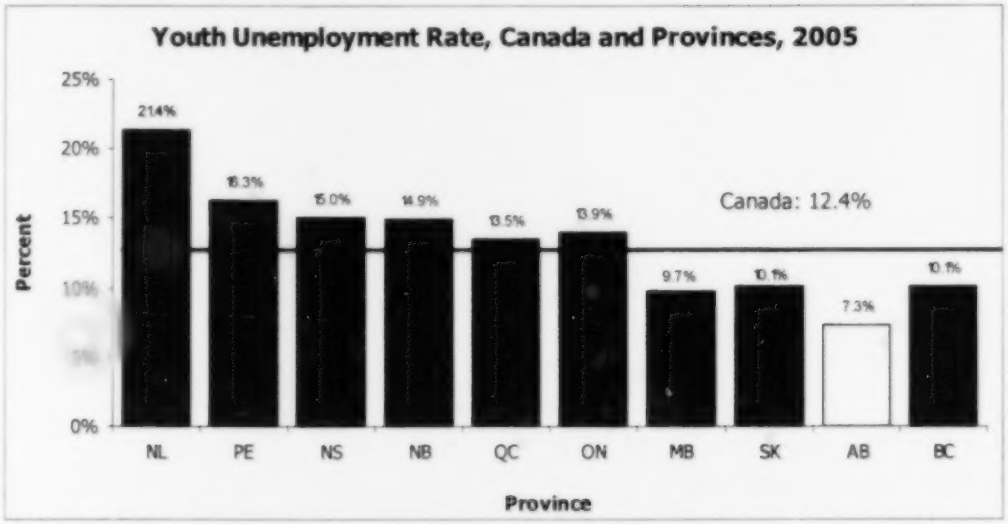
Both the participation and employment rates for Alberta youth are lower than those for the total population, with differences of 2.1 and 4.4 percentage points respectively.

2. Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

In 2005, Alberta had the lowest unemployment rate in the country at 3.9%. Chart 1 shows that the unemployment rate for Alberta youth was also the lowest in Canada at 7.3%. This was 5.1 percentage points lower than the national average.

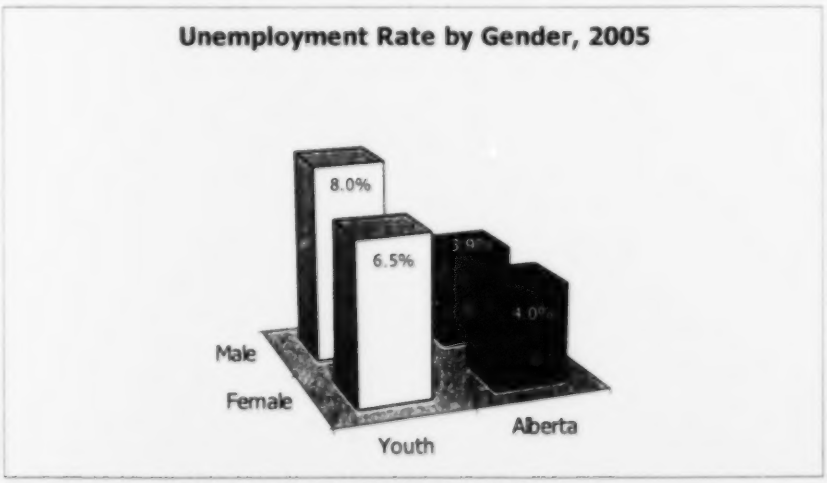
Chart 1



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2005

Chart 2 displays the unemployment rates by gender, for both youth and the total working age population in Alberta for 2005. While for the total population males had a slightly lower unemployment rate, the opposite was true for youth. Female youth had an unemployment rate of 6.5%, which was 1.5 percentage points lower than for males in the same age group.

Chart 2



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2. Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

In 2005 Alberta and Manitoba had the highest participation rate among youth of all the provinces with 70.6%. This was 3.6 percentage points higher than the national average.

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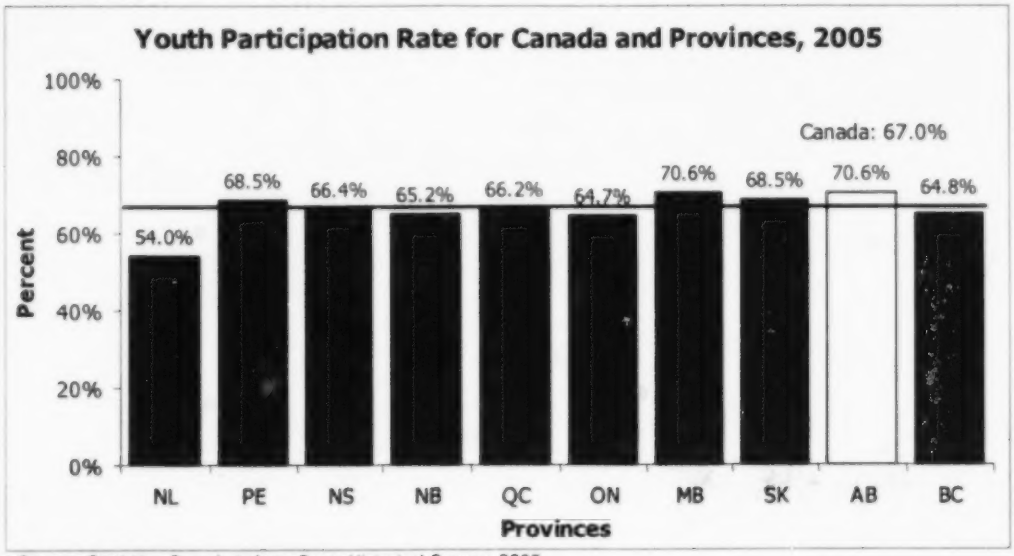
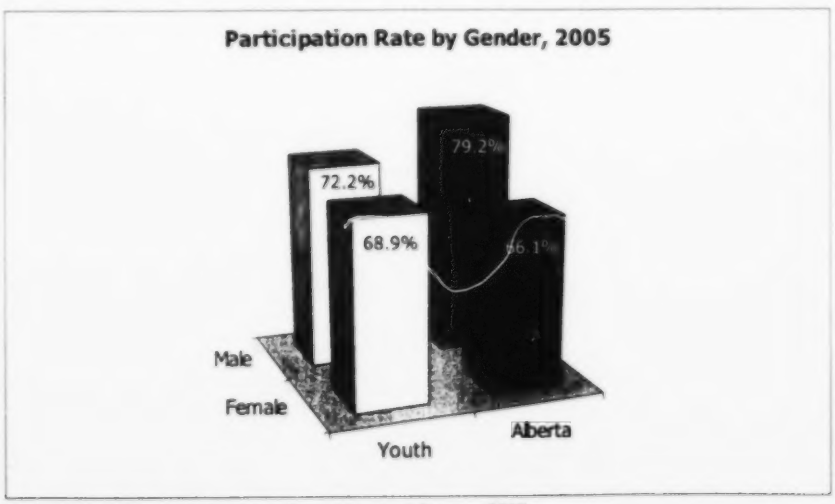


Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2005

Chart 4 shows that participation rates for youth are lower than for the total population. The participation rates for females are lower for both the youth age group and the total population in Alberta. The difference between genders is greater for the overall population with the male participation rate being 13.1 percentage points higher than females. In comparison, the difference between genders for youths is 3.3 percentage points.



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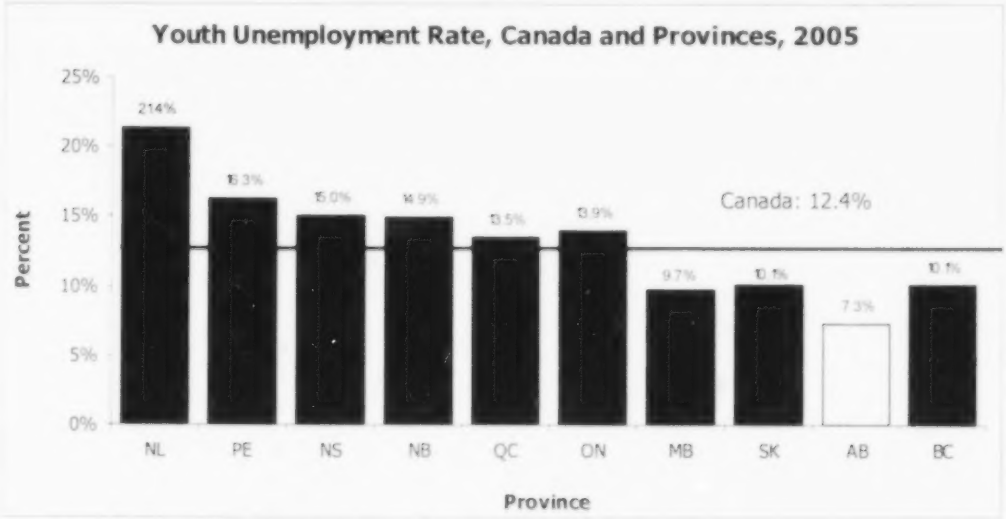

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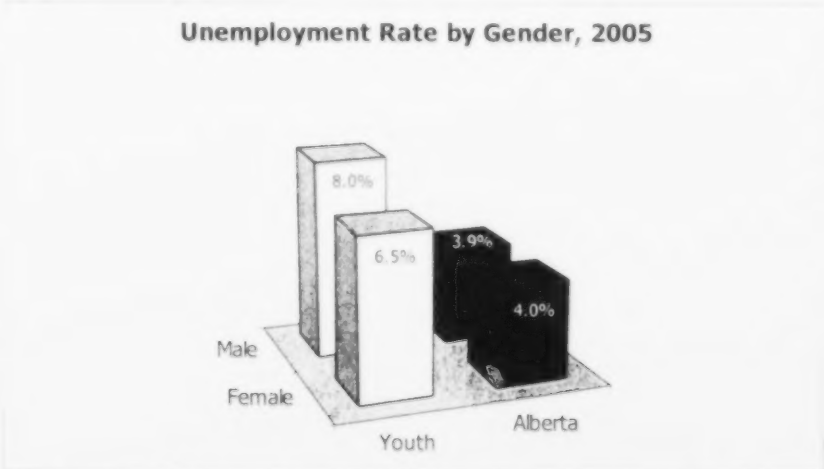

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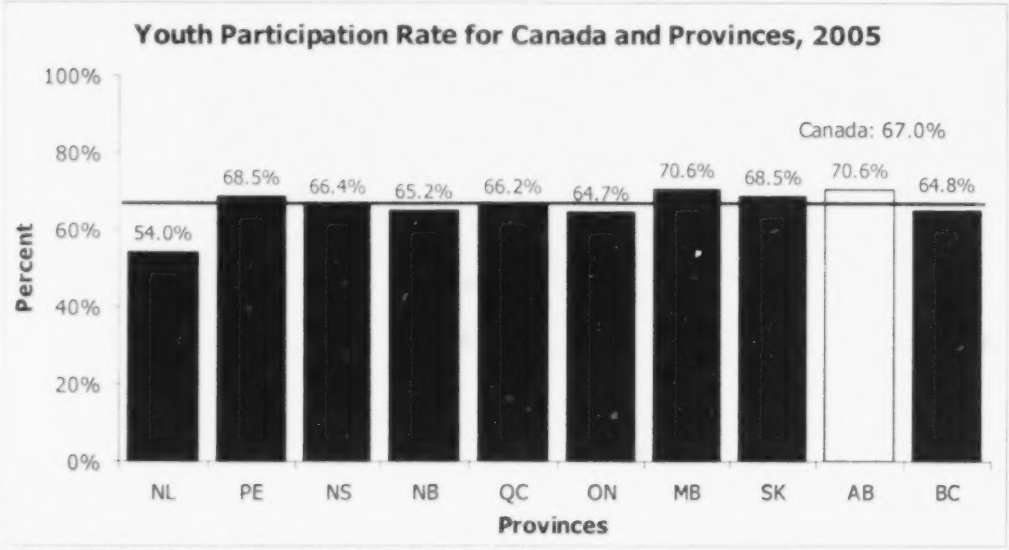

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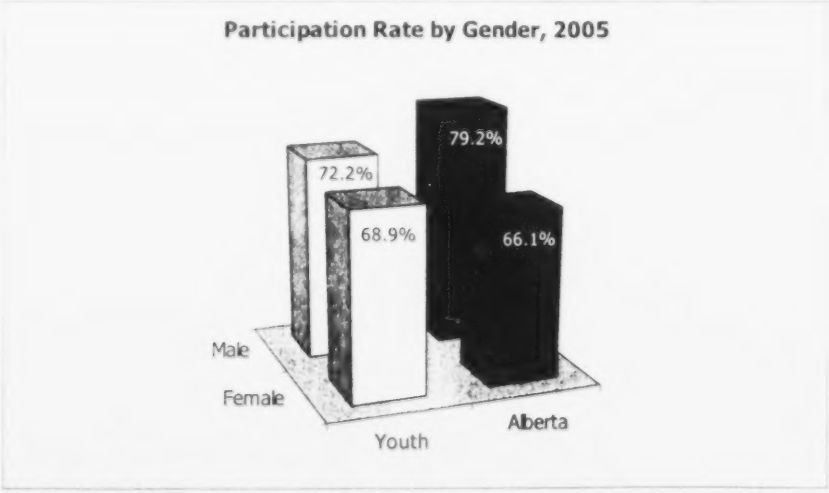

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2. Alberta Youth Labour Force Statistics

Chart 5 shows the employment rates of youth in Canada and the provinces in 2005. Albertan youth had the highest employment rate amongst the provinces in 2005, which was more than 7 percentage points above the Canadian rate. As shown below, Alberta's employment rate was 65.4%.

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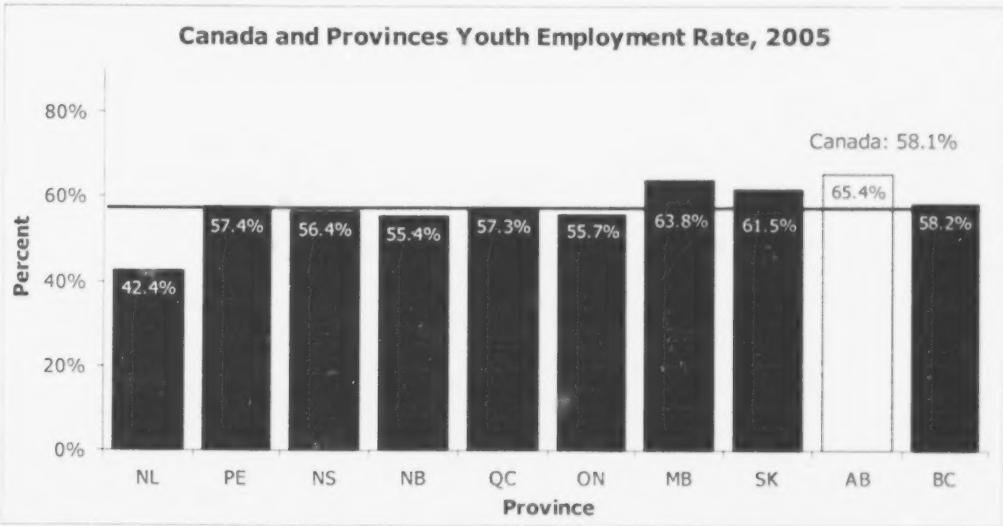

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Chart 6 shows the employment rate for by gender, for youth and the total working age population in Alberta in 2005. For both groups, males had higher employment rates than their female counterparts. The difference between genders was larger for the total population.

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Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2005

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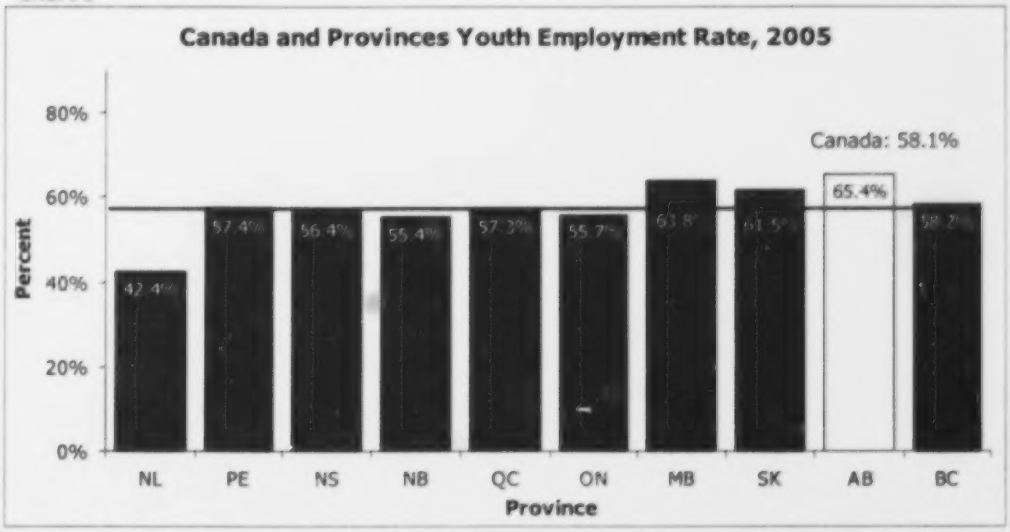

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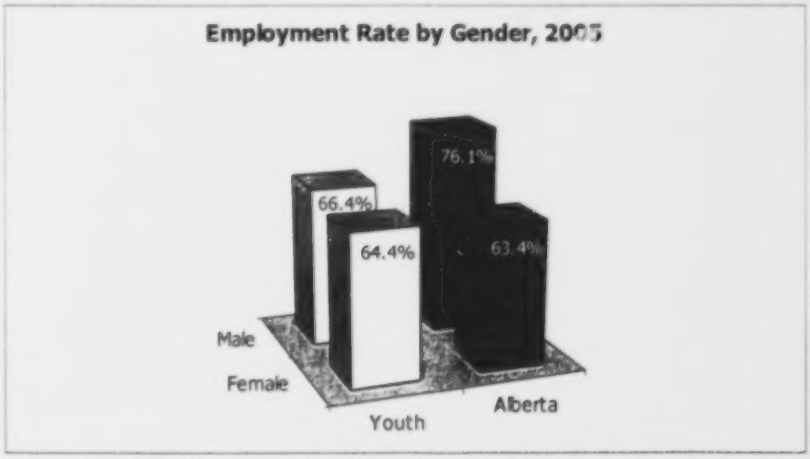

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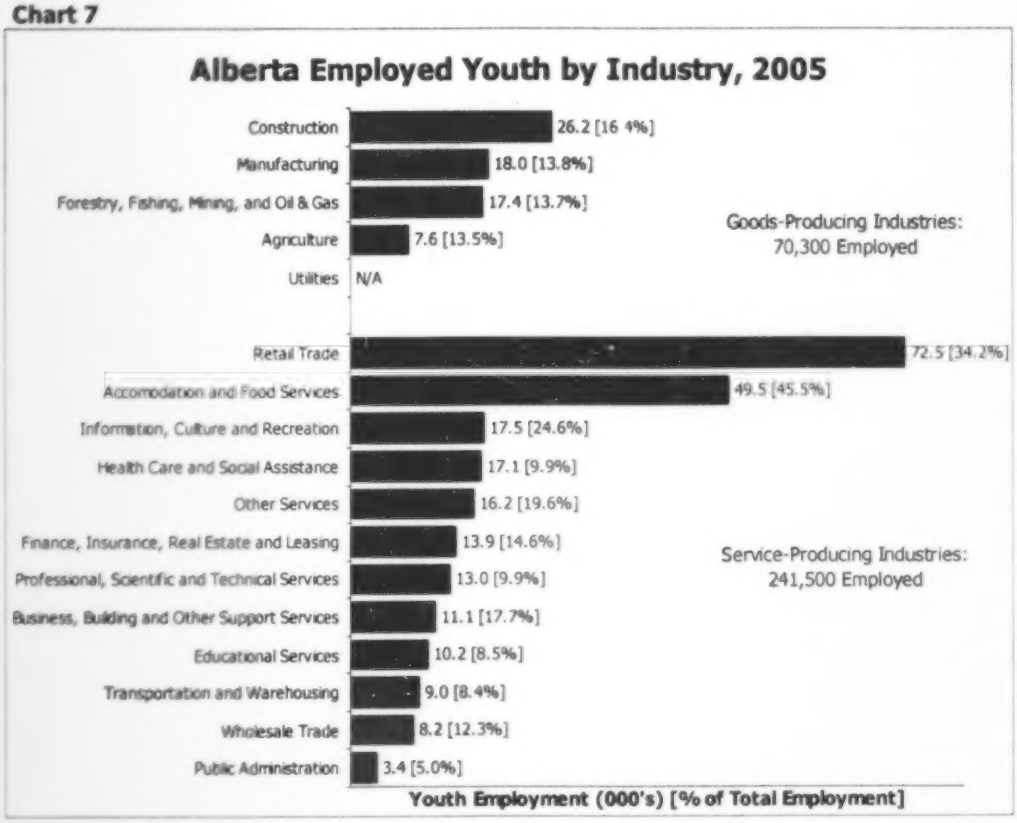
3. Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

In 2005, over three quarters (+77.4%) of youth in Alberta were employed in Service-Producing industries. The industry that employed the largest number of youth was the Retail Trade industry with 72,500 youth employed. Employment in this industry accounts for 23.3% of all employed youth. The Public Administration industry employs the least amount of youths.

Nearly half (+45.5%) of all employment in the Accommodation and Food Services industry is made up of youth.

Chart 7



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3. Alberta Youth Employment by Industry

There were more male than female youth employed in the Goods-Producing industries while the opposite was true for Service-Producing industries. Over 80.0% of Alberta youth employed in Goods-Producing industries are male and nearly 57% of Alberta youth in the Service-Producing industries were female.

Table 4

Alberta Youth Employment by Industry and Gender, 2005		
	Male	***Female***
Goods-Producing Industries	**81.9%**	**18.1%**
Agriculture	**65.8%**	**34.2%**
Construction	88.5%	11.5%
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, and Oil and Gas	**83.3%**	**16.7%**
Manufacturing	78.3%	21.1%
Utilities	**N/A**	**N/A**
Service-Producing Industries	**43.4%**	**56.6%**
Accomodation and Food Services	**37.6%**	**62.4%**
Educational Services	30.4%	69.6%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	**31.7%**	**68.3%**
Health Care and Social Assistance	17.5%	81.9%
Information, Culture and Recreation	**45.1%**	**54.9%**
Business Building and Other Support Services	60.4%	39.6%
Other Services	**42.0%**	**58.0%**
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	63.1%	36.2%
Public Administration	**52.9%**	**50.0%**
Retail Trade	45.8%	54.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	**61.1%**	**38.9%**
Wholesale Trade	67.1%	32.9%
Total	**52.0%**	**48.0%**

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4. Alberta Youth Employment by Occupation

Chart 8 displays Alberta youth employment by occupation. The Sales and Service occupation employs 139,700 youths, the most of any occupation in Alberta. This represents 44.8% of all employed youth and employed more than twice as many youth as the next highest occupation. Management occupations employed the least youth with 4,400.

Chart 8

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2005

4. Alberta Youth Employment by Occupation

The Trades, Transportation and Equipment Operators, Unique to Primary Industry, Natural and Applied Sciences and Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities occupations all employ more males than females. In each of these occupations, over 80.0% of youth employed are males.

Table 5

Alberta Youth Employment by Occupation and Gender, 2005		
	Male	**Female**
Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport	41.8%	58.2%
Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities	80.3%	19.7%
Health	12.4%	87.6%
Natural and Applied Sciences	84.2%	15.8%
Unique to Primary Industry	84.5%	15.5%
Social Science, Education, Government and Religion	30.6%	69.4%
Management	56.8%	43.2%
Trades, Tranportation and Equipment Operators	92.4%	7.6%
Business, Finance and Administration	28.8%	71.2%
Sales and Service	39.7%	60.3%

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2005

5. Alberta Youth Employment

Table 6 shows the highest level of educational attainment for youth and for the Alberta population in 2005. The largest proportions of employed youth are high school graduates followed by those with some high school, with 30.8% and 27.1% respectively. For the total working age population, the highest proportion of the employed hold a post-secondary certificate or diploma with 33.3%.

Table 6

Youth Employment by Level of Education, 2005		
Educational Attainment	**Alberta**	**Youth**
0 - 8 Years	2.0%	1.9%
Some High School	11.9%	27.1%
High School Graduate	23.2%	30.8%
Some Post-Secondary	9.1%	17.7%
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	33.3%	16.5%
University Degree	20.6%	6.0%
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2005

Table 7 displays employment by full-time and part-time employment for both genders in 2005. Youth in Alberta had higher proportions of people working in part-time positions than did the total Alberta working age population.

Male youth had higher proportions employed full-time than their female counterparts, with 71.5% and 56.6% respectively.

Table 7

Employment by Gender, 2005				
	Youth		**Alberta**	
	Employed	*% of total*	*Employed*	*% of total*
Both Genders	**311,800**	**100.0%**	**1,784,400**	**100.0%**
Full-Time	200,700	64.4%	1,477,600	82.8%
Part-Time	111,100	35.6%	306,800	17.2%
Male	**162,300**	**100.0%**	**978,200**	**100.0%**
Full-Time	116,100	71.5%	887,400	90.7%
Part-Time	51,200	31.5%	90,820	9.3%
Female	**149,600**	**100.0%**	**806,200**	**100.0%**
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6. Alberta Youth Wages and Salaries[2]

Table 8 displays the average hourly wages by industry for male and female youth employees in 2005. The overall average hourly wage in 2005 for all of Alberta was $19.76. The average hourly wage for youths was $11.81. Male youth had average hourly wages that are on average $1.39 higher than their female counterparts.

Table 8

Alberta Youth Average Hourly Wages by Industry and Gender, 2005

	Youth	Male	Female
Goods-Producing Industries	**$ 14.88**	**$ 15.29**	**$ 13.05**
Agriculture	$ 10.03	$ 10.47	$ 9.88
Construction	$ 14.35	$ 14.68	$ 11.88
Forestry, Fishing, Mining and Oil & Gas	$ 17.47	$ 18.43	$ 14.95
Manufacturing	$ 13.74	$ 13.83	$ 13.42
Utilities	N/A	N/A	N/A
Service-Producing Industries	**$ 10.98**	**$ 11.04**	**$ 10.93**
Accomodation and Food Services	$ 9.16	$ 8.87	$ 9.34
Educational Services	$ 13.66	$ 12.85	$ 14.03
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	$ 12.19	$ 10.76	$ 12.92
Health Care and Social Assistance	$ 14.82	$ 11.08	$ 15.64
Information, Culture and Recreation	$ 11.08	$ 10.80	$ 11.31
Business Building and Other Support Services	$ 11.96	$ 11.94	$ 12.00
Other Services	$ 11.03	$ 12.85	$ 14.03
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	$ 13.69	$ 14.20	$ 12.88
Public Administration	$ 13.00	$ 12.48	$ 13.55
Trade	$ 9.82	$ 10.26	$ 9.42
Transportation and Warehousing	$ 13.69	$ 14.85	$ 11.89
Average	**$ 11.81**	**$ 12.49**	**$ 11.10**

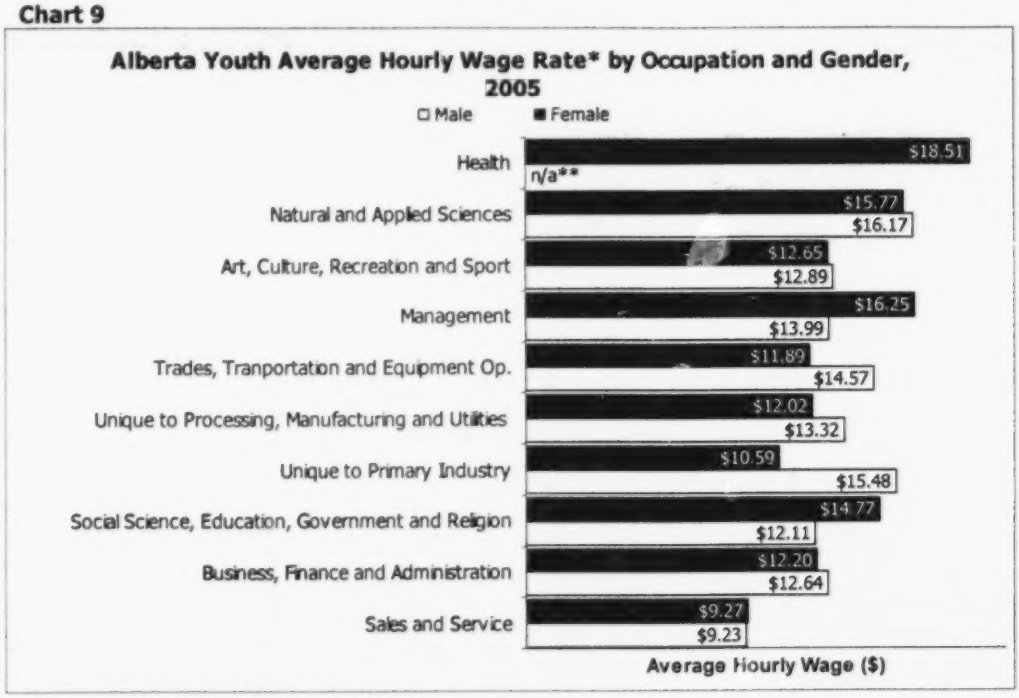
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2005
*Average hourly wage excludes those self-employed

[2] Weekly and hourly wage rates are calculated in conjunction with usual paid work hours per week.[2]

6. Alberta Youth Wages and Salaries

The highest average hourly wage for employed youth was for females working in Health occupations with $18.51. The lowest average hourly wages for both males and females were found in the Sales and Service occupations, with $9.27 and $9.23 respectively.

Chart 9



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2005
*Average hourly wage excludes those self-employed

6. Alberta Youth Wages and Salaries[2]

Table 8 displays the average hourly wages by industry for male and female youth employees in 2005. The overall average hourly wage in 2005 for all of Alberta was $19.76. The average hourly wage for youths was $11.81. Male youth had average hourly wages that are on average $1.39 higher than their female counterparts.

Table 8

Alberta Youth Average Hourly Wages by Industry and Gender, 2005

	Youth	Male	Female
Goods-Producing Industries	**$ 14.88**	**$ 15.29**	**$ 13.05**
Agriculture	$ 10.22	$ 10.47	$ 9.83
Construction	$ 14.35	$ 14.68	$ 11.88
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, and Oil & Gas	$ 17.87	$ 18.43	$ 14.95
Manufacturing	$ 13.74	$ 13.83	$ 13.42
Utilities	N/A	N/A	N/A
Service-Producing Industries	**$ 10.98**	**$ 11.04**	**$ 10.93**
Accomodation and Food Services	$ 9.16	$ 8.87	$ 9.34
Educational Services	$ 13.66	$ 12.85	$ 14.03
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	$ 12.19	$ 12.79	$ 11.92
Health Care and Social Assistance	$ 14.82	$ 11.08	$ 15.64
Information, Culture and Recreation	$ 11.08	$ 10.80	$ 11.31
Business Building and Other Support Services	$ 11.96	$ 11.94	$ 12.00
Other Services	$ 11.03	$ 12.85	$ 14.03
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	$ 13.69	$ 14.20	$ 12.88
Public Administration	$ 13.00	$ 12.48	$ 13.55
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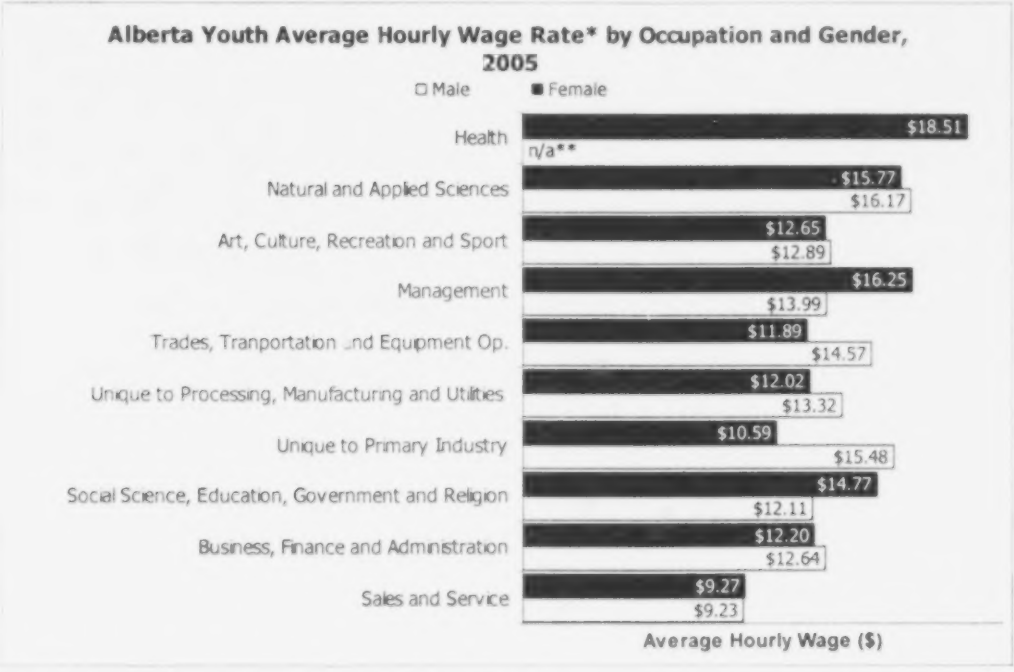

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Historical Survey, 2005
*Average hourly wage excludes those self-employed

Appendix

All of the following definitions are from the Guide to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 71-543-GIE.

Youth: Statistics Canada defines youth as those people between the ages of 15-24 years.

Working Age Population (WAP): Those persons 15 years of age and over except persons living on Indian reserves, inmates of institutions, and full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Labour Force: The labour force is composed of the portion of the WAP who, during the reference week, were employed or unemployed. The reference week is defined as the week containing the 15th day of the month in which information is collected for the Labour Force Survey.

Participation Rate: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the WAP. This measure represents the proportion of the WAP that is either employed or actively seeking employment.

Employment Rate: The number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of WAP.

Industry: The general nature of the business carried out by the employer for whom the respondent works (main job only).

Occupation: The kind of work persons 15 years of age and over were doing during the reference week, as determined by the kind of work reported and the description of the most important duties of the job. If the individual did not have a job during the reference week, the data relates to the previous job, if that job was held in the past year.